

Appl. No. 09/598,889
Amendment dated February 28, 2005

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of the subject application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 through 15 are pending in the subject application.

The claims of the subject application are directed to a method and apparatus for comparing, on a visual display, information from a plurality of different items. In claim 1, for example, within information for each of the plurality of items, passages which relate to a category of information are identified with a common tag. In the visual display, a different display area is provided for each of the plurality of items; and in each of the display areas, the passage identified by a designated common tag is displayed for the item to which the display area corresponds, so that the passages for the different items are observable at the same time.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 103(a):

In paragraph 4 of the Official Action, mailed August 27, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,067,525 to Johnson et al. ("Johnson et al."); and in paragraph 6, rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson et al. in view of Freidman et al, USP 6,360,188.

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Independent claims 1,7,12 and 15 all recite a "common tag" that is used to identify passages in the information for each of the plurality of different items which relate to a category of information. Johnson et al. provide no teaching of the use of such "common tags," much less the use of "common tags" in a comparison type operation. While the cited passage from Johnson et al., col. 12, lines 43-65, states "The information generated may be tagged using the product module 402 and automatically inserted as a section of a proposal generated using the proposal module 412," it is respectfully submitted that such passage is not a teaching or suggestion of the claimed "common tag" used to identify passages in each of

Page 6 of 7

SF3108890.1
1030925-910800

Appl. No. 09/598,889
Amendment dated February 28, 2005

different items which relate to a category of information, and displaying such tagged information so that the passages are observable at the same time. It is respectfully submitted that, at best, Johnson et al. teach tagging information from various sources and inserting such tagged information into a proposal. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Johnson et al. does not teach, suggest or make obvious the invention claimed in claims 1-15.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 7, 12 and 15 are allowable over the art of record. Dependent claims 2-6, 8-11, 13 and 14, as dependent from allowable base claims, are themselves allowable.

Although the Examiner has cited Friedman et al. in combination with Johnson et al., it is respectfully submitted that because Johnson et al. do not teach, suggest, or make obvious the "common tag" and the use thereof, as set forth in the claims, the combination of Johnson et al. and Friedman et al. cannot result in the claimed combinations of claims 1-15.

For the above reasons it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance, and the Examiner's indication to that end is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Page 7 of 7

SF3108690.1
1030925-910800